

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 00172 130506Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 VO-03
COME-00 EB-07 /066 W
-----130511Z 025447 /22
R 130415Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7182

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FOR NEA/INS KUX FROM EAVES

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJ: TIGER TOPS

1. IN EARLY DECEMBER ED MCCARTHY, A BRITISH NATIONAL WHO IS AN EXECTUVE OF TIGER TOPS, WAS DENIED A VISA RENEWAL AND TOLD TO LEAVE NEPAL WITHIN THREE DAYS, WITH NO REASON GIVEN. AS A RESULT PRIMARILY OF EFFORTS BY HIS BOSS, JIM EDWARDS (ALSO BRITISH) WHO IS CLOSE TO PRIME MINISTER GIRI, MCARTHY RECEIVED A ONE MONTH VISA EXTENSION WHICH EXPIRED JANUARY 7 AND SOME INFORMAL INDICATION THAT HE WOULD BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN AT LEAST UNTIL JUNE. HE IS STILL HERE AND IS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THINGS MAY WORK OUT,IN ANY CASE, IT NOW SEEMS LIKELY THAT HE WILL BE TRANSFERRED THIS SUMMER, PROBABLY TO THE NEW TIGER TOPS OPERATION WHICH IS BEING PLANNED IN SRI LANKA. NO ONE, INCLUDING MCCARTHY, PROFESSES TO KNOW THE REAL REASON FOR THE GON ACTION, THOUGH MCCARTHY TELLS US PROVATELY HE THINKS IT MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH A MISUNDERSTANDING OVER THE IMPORATATION OF SOME RADIOS, ALWAYS A SENSITIVE SUBJECT HERE. SPECULATION BY OTHERS ON GON

MOTIVES RANGES FROM CONSIDERATIONS OF PERSONAL SPITE TO
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ALLEGATIONS THAT MCCARTHY WAS A FOREIGN AGENT TO GON DESIRE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS WORKING IN NEPAL. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS LATTER LINE OF SPECULATION, EDWARDS SAYS COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER HARKA GURUNG ASKED HIM SOME TIME AGO HOW SOON TIGER TOPS PERSONNEL COULD BE COMPLETELY NEPALIZED. (EDWARDS REPLIED TEN YEARS).

2. HOWEVER, EDWARDS HAS TOLD US HE BELIEVES THE GON'S
RECENT ACTION WAS AIMED AT MCCARTHY AND NOT AT TIGER TOPS.
THERE HAS BEEN NO SERIOUS TALK OR EXPECTATION OF EXPRO-
PRIATION. LIZ HAWLEY, AN AMERICAN WHO WORKS FOR TIGER
TOPS AND WHO IS ALSO THE REUTERS CORRESPONDENT HERE AND
WHOM SOME THOUGHT MIGHT BE NEXT ON THE LIST IF THE GON
WAS INTENT ON FORCING THE PACE OF NEPALIZATION, RECEIVED
A RENEWAL OF HER PRESS CREDENTIALS FOR A YEAR A COUPLE OF
WEEKS AGO AND SO SHE IS NOW BREATHING EASIER. HER VISA
EXPIRES IN THE FALL.
EAVES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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